ISPs) and ISPs in India, or any oilier orders issued by the Government of India from time to time. The Joint Venture will be subject to the same conditions of licensing and security regulations as are enforceable in respect of other operators operating in India.

Postal stamps on tourist areas

4590. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring out postal stamps on selected tourist areas in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) On the recommendation of the Philatelic Advisory Committee which advises the Department of Posts regarding issue of commemorative/ special stamps and other related matters, the Government has decided to bring out special stamps on the themes of Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage of the country. Under Cultural Heritage it has been further decided to bring out stamps on places of tourist interest in the country. This includes Andhra Pradesh also. During this year a set of stamps have been brought out to focus attention on the flora and fauna of the North East.

Enhancement of P&T facilities in Himachal Pradesh

†4591. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such places in Kangra, Kullu and Mandi districts of Himachal Pradesh having a post office, sub-post office and post offices run by a single employee;

(b) the names of such places in the said Districts wherein telephone and telegraph facilities arc available: and

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal to enhance such facilities; if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The information is furnished in Annexure A to C respectively. *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 114]

(b) District-wise list is given in Annexure-D. *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 114]

(c) Government plans are to provide public telephone facility in all the remaining revenue villages and panchayat villages in these districts progressively by March, 2002 also telephone on demand by March, 2002. For this new telephone exchanges are being opened and existing exchanges are expanded wherever required.

Connection of Ransar Valley to Jangla Telephone Exchange

4592. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received and demand from the people of Ransar Valley to connect Jangla Telephone Exchange through underground cables from Badiyara in Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to extend local call facility from Jangla to Shimla and criteria fixed for local call distance by Government for Hilly and Rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The issue has been raised by a Hon'ble M.P. At present, an Optical Fibre Cable System has been provided between Badiyara and Jangla exchange. There is no plan to lay underground cable as aerial optical fibre cable system is considered quite reliable.

(b) and (c) No Sir, as per existing departmental instructions, local call facility can not be extended from Rohru (Jangla) to Shimla as these arc not adjacent Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCA's) and the radial distance between their Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCC's) is more than 50 Kms.